

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 1, 3, 4, 10, 12, 13, 17, 18, 23 and 24.

The claim listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application.

Claim Listing

1-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) An apparatus for adding and removing liquid reagent to and from a sample comprising:

a microscope slide supporting the sample;

a chamber forming a cavity over said microscope slide, said chamber being releasably sealed to said microscope slide;

a fluid port in the wall of said chamber through which fluids can be added or removed;

a valve comprising a moveable valve element, wherein said valve is positioned at the fluid port, said valve capable of opening, to admit fluid through the port into the chamber, and closing;

a conduit through which a source of negative or positive air pressure can be communicated;

an actuator capable of causing relative movement between the fluid port and conduit to engage said conduit and fluid port to each other so that the two are in fluid communication with each other; and

a piston in the conduit capable of moving the moveable valve element to open the valve to admit fluid through the port into the chamber when the conduit and fluid port are in communication with each other.

20. (Previously presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 19 wherein the fluid port further comprises a reagent well capable of holding an aliquot of reagent prior to the reagent passing into the cavity.

21. (Previously presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 20 wherein the valve comprises a flexible element.
22. (Previously presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 21 wherein the flexible element is an extension of a gasket of the chamber which seals against the microscope slide.
- 23-24. (Canceled)